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THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

9 March 1951

Dear General Smith:

I have read your letter [] of 2 March 1951 with interest, and note that you are preparing a statement for submittal to the Joint Chiefs of Staff giving your estimate of the support required from the Department of Defense in order to meet your responsibilities in the field of operations.

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The assets which may be generated by requirements for operations in the cold war can be expected to be of proportionate value in case overt global war should intervene, and for some time all of us have been acquiring a considerable body of experience in learning the mechanics of dealing with the complex elements that are involved.

It seems to me that much of the support which is visualized in the enclosures to your letter can be provided by arrangements which have already been set in motion and are well advanced. This leads me to hope that we will not have too much difficulty in handling the situation within the current framework, but it is, of course, a proper subject for further exploration and discussion with the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Financing appears to be a matter between you and the Congress, but you may be assured that I shall support your efforts to obtain funds for any conception of your plans and operations which has been accepted by Defense.

Sincerely,

(Sgd) Omar N. Bradley

Lt. General Walter B. Smith
Director of Central Intelligence
Washington, D. C.

JCS review(s) completed.

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NEXT REVIEW DATE: _____
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2 March 1951

General Omar N. Bradley
Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
Department of Defense
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear General Bradley:

Herewith as discussed during our conference last Monday (see Annex 1) are estimates of the support which is or which may be needed by CIA from the Department of Defense in order to carry out projects which have already been approved or which it is possible may be approved within the near future in accordance with our estimate of present trends of policy. Our estimated requirements are listed under three categories as follow: those already requested under approved projects; those required for the support of approved projects, requests for which will be made within the next thirty days; those required for the support of projects which are still tentative or which are still in the discussion stage.

These latter are largely guesswork but the guesswork is educated to the extent that it is based on past experience and on our estimate of future possibilities.

For cross reference, in Annex 2, we have indicated the requirements for covert operations by project, listing those which fall within the above three categories.

As I mentioned during Monday's conference, the responsibilities which are being placed upon us under our Charter and under NSC directives, particularly in the field of planning and execution of guerrilla warfare activities, go beyond our current capabilities and indeed embrace operations of such magnitude that they threaten to absorb the resources of this Agency to a point which might be detrimental to its other responsibilities.

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In order to bring these activities into proper focus with such other responsibilities of the Agency, we are preparing a statement which will be submitted to the Joint Chiefs of Staff within the next 60 days, giving CIA estimate of support required from the Department of Defense in order to meet our dual responsibilities in the field of operations and accordingly to enable it to:

- (1) complete the organization of a professional clandestine intelligence service, adequate to meet all peacetime requirements plus an estimate of expansion to meet conditions of general war;



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The above would require, in my opinion, detailed planning, guidance, and control, participated in by the three Armed Services, the Department of State, and probably the Office of Defense Mobilization, as well as the Central Intelligence Agency. This Agency will be glad to participate in discussions directed toward the formation of a staff or syndicate competent to give such guidance and control.

Faithfully,

Signed
Walter B. Smith
Director

Enclosures:

- Annex 1
- Annex 2

WBS/c/k

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